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U.S. Appln. No. 10/663,841

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography, comprising:

a base;

a resin layer;

a support which comprises the resin layer disposed on at least one side of the base; and

at least one toner-image-receiving layer over the support,

wherein the resin layer arranged between the toner-image-receiving layer and the base contains at least one polyethylene resin having a mass-average density of 0.935 g/cm³ or less, and

wherein the resin layer arranged between the toner-image-receiving layer and the base contains a polyethylene resin having a melt flow rate (MFR) of 11 g/10 min. or less.

2. (currently amended): An electrophotographic image-receiving sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one polyethylene resin having a mass-average density of 0.935 g/cm³ or less has a mass-average density of 0.925 g/cm³ or less.

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): An electrophotographic image-receiving sheet according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the polyethylene resin having a melt

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flow rate (MFR) of 11 g/10 min. or less has a melt flow rate of 2 to 10 g/10 min.

5. (original): An electrophotographic image-receiving sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the resin layer arranged between the toner-image-receiving layer and the base contains at least two polyethylene resins having different mass-average densities.

6. (original): An electrophotographic image-receiving sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the resin layer of the support is formed by melt extrusion coating.

7. (currently amended): An electrophotographic image-receiving sheet according to Claim 1, wherein a content of the polyethylene resin in the resin layer arranged between the toner-image-receiving layer and the base is 60% by mass or more.

8. (original): An electrophotographic image-receiving sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the toner-image-receiving layer contains a thermoplastic resin.

9. (currently amended): An electrophotographic image-receiving sheet according to Claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic resin in the toner image-receiving layer is self-dispersing water-dispersible polyester resin emulsion which satisfies the following properties (1) to (4):

- (1) Number average molecular weight (Mn) = 5000 to 10000;
- (2) Molecular weight distribution (weight average molecular weight/number average molecular weight) ≤ 4 ;
- (3) Glass transition temperature (Tg) = 40°C to 100°C; and
- (4) Volume average particle diameter = 20 nm to 200 nm.

10. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography, comprising:

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a support; and

at least one toner-image-receiving layer over the support, wherein the toner-image-receiving layer contains a polyolefin resin.

11. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography according to Claim 10, wherein an amount of the polyolefin resin in the toner-image-receiving layer is 60 % by mass or more.

12. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography according to Claim 10, wherein the toner-image-receiving layer is formed by melt extrusion coating.

13. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography according to Claim 10, wherein the support is selected from raw paper, synthetic paper, synthetic resin sheet, coated paper, and laminated paper.

14. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography according to Claim 1, wherein a toner to be received by the toner-image-receiving layer comprises a binder resin and a colorant, wherein a volume average particle diameter of the toner is from 0.5 μm to 10 μm and volume average particle size distribution index (GSDv) is 1.3 or less.

15. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography according to Claim 14, wherein a ratio (GSDv/GSDn) of the volume average particle size distribution index (GSDv) of the toner to a number average particle size distribution index (GSDn) is 0.95 or more.

16. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography according to Claim 14, wherein the volume average particle diameter of the toner is from 0.5 μm to 10 μm and an average value of shape indices of the toner is from 1.00 to 1.50, wherein the shape index is defined by the following formula:

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$$\text{Shape index} = (\pi \times L^2)/(4 \times S)$$

wherein "L" represents a maximum length of a toner particle and "S" represents a projected area of the toner particle.

17. (withdrawn): An image-receiving sheet for electrophotography according to Claim 14, wherein the toner is manufactured by a process comprising:

(i) forming aggregated particles in a dispersion in which resin particles are dispersed, so as to prepare aggregated particle dispersion;

(ii) adding and mixing a fine particle dispersion in which fine particles are dispersed, into the aggregated particle dispersion, so as to form adhesion particles in which the fine particles adhere to the aggregated particles; and

(iii) heating and fusing the adhesion particles, so as to form toner particles.

18. (withdrawn): A process for image formation using an image-receiving sheet for electrophotography,

the image-receiving sheet comprising:

a base;

a resin layer;

a support which comprises the resin layer disposed on at least one side of the base; and

at least one toner-image-receiving layer over the support,

wherein the resin layer arranged between the toner-image-receiving layer and the base contains at least one polyethylene resin having a mass-average density of 0.935 g/cm³ or less,

the process comprising the steps of:

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forming a toner image on an image-forming surface of the image-receiving sheet for electrophotography;

heating and pressurizing the toner image-bearing surface of the image-receiving sheet for electrophotography using a fixing belt and a fixing roller;

cooling the heated and pressurized toner image-bearing surface; and

removing the cooled toner image-bearing surface from the fixing belt.

19. (withdrawn): A process for image formation according to Claim 18, further comprising:

fixing the toner image by a heating roller,

wherein fixing is carried out after the step of forming and before the step of heating and pressurizing.

20. (withdrawn): A process for image formation according to Claim 18, wherein the fixing belt comprises:

a fluorocarbon siloxane rubber layer disposed over a surface of the fixing belt; and

an optional silicone rubber layer, wherein the fluorocarbon siloxane rubber layer is disposed on the silicone rubber layer.

21. (withdrawn): A process for image formation according to Claim 20, wherein the fluorocarbon siloxane rubber layer has at least one of perfluoroalkyl ether groups and perfluoroalkyl groups in its principal chain.

22. (withdrawn): A process for image formation using an image-receiving sheet for electrophotography,

the image-receiving sheet for electrophotography comprising:

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a support; and

at least one toner-image-receiving layer over the support, wherein the toner-image-receiving layer contains a polyolefin resin, wherein an amount of the polyolefin resin in the toner-image-receiving layer is 60 % by mass or more,

the process comprising:

forming a toner image on an image-forming surface of the image-receiving sheet for electrophotography;

heating and pressurizing the toner image-bearing surface of the image-receiving sheet for electrophotography using a fixing belt and a fixing roller;

cooling the heated and pressurized toner image-bearing surface; and

removing the cooled toner image-bearing surface from the fixing belt.

23. (withdrawn): A process for image formation according to Claim 22, wherein the image-receiving sheet for electrophotography is heated and pressurized at a temperature of from 80 °C to 110 °C by a fixing belt and a fixing roller and released from the fixing belt at a temperature of 80 °C or less.

24. (withdrawn): A process for image formation according to Claim 22, wherein the fixing belt comprises:

a fluorocarbon siloxane rubber layer disposed over a surface of the fixing belt; and

an optional silicone rubber layer, wherein the fluorocarbon siloxane rubber layer is disposed on the silicone rubber layer.

25. (withdrawn): A process for image formation according to Claim 24, wherein the

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fluorocarbonsiloxane rubber layer has at least one of perfluoroalkyl ether groups and perfluoroalkyl groups in its principal chain.